

TV grab of Hope

Hope shows face, tells Kris sorry but ...

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IS A BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN THE OFFING?

Yesterday, Hope Centeno, the beauty clinic receptionist who alleged that she had a 18-month affair with married basketball player

HOPE/A22

WORLD / A26

Iran ready for US move in nuke dispute



ENTERTAINMENT / F1

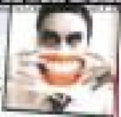
Tight security at Oscar award rites in Hollywood

SPORTS / A29

We can beat China, says RP coach Reyes

LIFESTYLE / D1

'Word of Mouth' closes landmark CCP exhibit



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, February 26, 2007 ** 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 89 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Mayor Vi gives way in Batangas gov race

By Bayani San Diego Jr. in Manila and Marlon Luistro Inquirer Southern Luzon

LIPA CITY MAYOR VILMA SANTOS-RECTO SAID in a text message to the Inquirer that she was not running for Batangas governor to give way to her brother-in-law, Vice Gov. Ricky Recto, in a contest against reelectionist Gov. Armando Sanchez.

MAYOR VI/A22

GMA: No more Edsas

Education revolution as new people power

By Eugenia Duran Apostol
Founding Chair
Philippine Daily Inquirer

COMMENTARY

OVER A MILLION PEOPLE GATHered at Edsa 21 years ago to finally put an end to the Marcos dictatorship. During those historic four days, nothing was certain. Yet, people from all walks of life set aside their collective fear and gathered in prayer and in prayer, armed only with the fervent hope that the future would be what they made of it.

The ensuing months brought bitter disappointment to those who felt that Edsa 1986 failed to achieve its noble ends. Others were even more pessimistic, prophesying inevitable—and potentially bloody—upheavals. A series of failed coup attempts, some comedic and others truly frightening, seemed to lend credence to their dark forebodings.

Still, there remained many among us who harbored an unflinching belief that our collective will—and People Power—would see us through what is called "interesting times" in a Chinese epithet.

In 1998, the sybaritic Joseph Estrada—oozing charisma from every fiber of his action star persona—rose to the presidency. He

EDUCATION/A20

At last, a museum for rare courage

By Cerna Doyo

DEDICATED AND BLESSED ON Feb. 23 during the 21st People Power anniversary commemorations was the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation's new P35-million Jovito R. Salonga building that houses a museum, archives and library, as well as a well-equipped Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco auditorium and administration office.

Enshrined and resting here is the enduring spirit of those who lived and died for the motherland; kept here are stories and images of uncommon courage that would serve to inspire generations of Filipinos to come.

The 1,000-square meter edifice in newly landscaped surroundings is an addition to the memorial center's soaring 45-foot bronze monument by sculptor Ed Castrillo, and the Wall of Remembrance on which more than a hundred names of martyrs and heroes who fought the 21-year Marcos dictatorship are etched.

The memorial center is beside the government-owned National

AT LAST/A20



BALLOONS arranged in the form of the Philippine flag are released during the rites Sunday commemorating the 21st anniversary of the Edsa People Power revolt.

Urges use of people power to unite RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE WORLD WELcomed Edsa People Power I in 1986 and tolerated Edsa People Power II in 2001, but it will reject a third one, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday on the 21st anniversary of the first people power revolt that toppled the Marcos regime.

On both occasions, the military had sided with the protesters.

"The world will not, however, forgive another Edsa but would instead condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable and the Filipinos as among the finest people in the world but who always shoot themselves in the foot," Ms Arroyo said in her speech at the Edsa I anniversary celebration.

In contrast, she said that "when President [Fidel] Ramos came to Edsa on the first day of Edsa in 1986, and throughout those four days, especially when Cardinal Sin called upon the people to come and the people responded, the world embraced Edsa."

Hundreds of thousands of Filipinos, including priests and nuns, massed on Edsa in the heart of Metro Manila to protect mutinous soldiers from a convoy of tanks and troops loyal to Marcos.

Nuns and unarmed civilians holding rosaries and flowers knelt before the tanks to halt their advance in iconic images beamed by TV networks around the world.

Marcos, who ruled with an iron fist for 20 years, was forced to flee into exile in Hawaii, where

GMA/A20

Genuine Opposition's return to Plaza Miranda a big letdown

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW INspiration from a hallowed tradition in Philippine politics, Plaza Miranda, the Genuine Opposition (GO) presented on Saturday its candidates for the Senate in a proclamation rally in what was once the heart of the legal opposition movement in nonfunctioning Philippine democracy.

Launching their campaign for the May 2007 election, opposition candidates pictured themselves as "watchdogs" and "fighters." The rally was more than a nostalgia trip. Prior to the declaration of martial law in September 1972, Plaza Miranda was the premier arena for public accountability of elected officials and government.

The democratic test of worthiness for public office, before the plaza became the killing field of opposition leaders in the Aug. 21, 1971, grenade bombing of the Liberal Party senatorial proclamation rally, was "Can it be defended in Plaza Miranda?" It was the ultimate test of accountability—directly before the sovereign people.

Plaza Miranda is the opposition's natural platform. On it, the opposition pilloried the sitting government and put it on the defensive—to account for its controversial policies and its failures, of which there are many.

This is what the opposition tried to do when it revisited Plaza Miranda, but the rally was somewhat of a big letdown.

It lacked the fireworks of the pre-martial law rallies. The opposition launched its campaign with no fire in its belly.

This should be of public concern, given that there's so much at stake in the May election which will decide whether the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will retain its majority in the House of Representatives, whether it will regain its legitimacy to govern, eroded by the scandal of the Garcillano tapes in the 2004 election, and whether a change in the balance of power in Congress would lead to policy changes that would stop the unabated killings of several hundred political activists over the past six years.

The opposition candidates

GENUINE/A22



CLANGING FOR VOTES

Reelectionist Senators Ralph Recto and Joker Arroyo (right) join Kalinga "braves" during the parade of floats at Baguio's flower festival Sunday. Teamunity used the occasion to campaign for the May 14 polls. (Story on Page A9.)

New ruling gives small mining firms big boost

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SMALL MINING FIRMS CAN NOW EXtract minerals in the country without production limits following a Malacañang ruling overturning a decision by the environment department to stop the operations of a Palawan mining firm for over-extraction.

In an order from the Office of the President, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Presidential Decree No. 1899 (signed in 1984), which limits small-scale mining to 50,000 metric tons a year, had been amended by Republic Act No. 7076.

RA 7076, or the "People's Small Scale Mining Act of 1991," limits the exploration area to no more than 20 hectares.

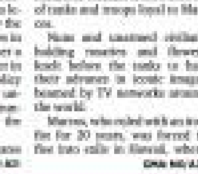
Ermita cited this provision in his order to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to allow Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC), whose lawyer is Romulo Reyes, a close associate of Ermita, to resume its mining operations in Palawan.

Reyes suspended PGMC's environment compliance certificate on Sept. 25, 2006, because the firm had extracted 300,535 metric tons of nickel ore from June 2005 to June 2006, or more than six times the annual cap.

Ermita described Reyes' act as a "grave abuse of discretion."

An official of the Chamber of Mines, who requested anonymity, said Ermita's decision would encourage firms that applied for big mining projects at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to just go into small-scale min-

NEW RULING/A22



Palparan eyes seat in Congress

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE Armed Forces of the Philippines is rooting for retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan in his bid for a seat in Congress so that the retired officer denounced by leftists as a "berdugo" (butcher) could continue his fight against the communists on

PALPARAN/A22

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
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Second FrontPage

New group seeks AFP officers' release

A NEW GROUP OF RESTIVE MILITARY OFFICERS yesterday sought the immediate release of over 100 detained military personnel involved in the February 2006 Marine standoff in Fort Bonifacio who, they said, were wrongfully accused of plotting a coup.

'Unexplained killings' more correct term, says defense official

US Marines flee as RP, Abu Sayyaf forces clash

Reporters seek end to killings

ON THE EVE OF THE SIXTH ANniversary of the first killing of a journalist in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders) wrote her urging energetic measures to put an end to the impunity by which journalists in the Philippines are murdered.

Muhammad Yusop, who was killed on Feb. 24, 2001, was the first of 50 journalists, per the count of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, to be killed since Ms Arroyo became president.

Reporters Without Borders also expressed its support for the National Day of Action against Impunity organized by the NUJP last Friday.

The anniversary coincided with the release of the Melo Commission report and the investigation conducted by United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, both of which pointed to the involvement of government security forces in the murders of journalists and political activists.

The RWB letter called on President Arroyo to rapidly take the steps that would stop the killings.

"We are convinced that the only way to consolidate the rule of law in the Philippines and to reinforce press freedom is to prosecute those responsible," the group said.

The NUJP backed by more than 20 journalists organizations in 14 countries, including Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Belgium, Norway, Australia and the United States, delivered protest letters to the government and the countries' consulates in the Philippines on Friday.

Inquirer writer's brother dies

S. Korea tightens flight rules

THE SOUTH KOREAN government will implement stricter security guidelines beginning March 1 to control the quantity of liquids, gels and aerosols in carry-on bags of its travelers and transit passengers departing from that country.

The new guidelines were relayed by Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Susan Castrence to the Department of Foreign Affairs. The guidelines include:

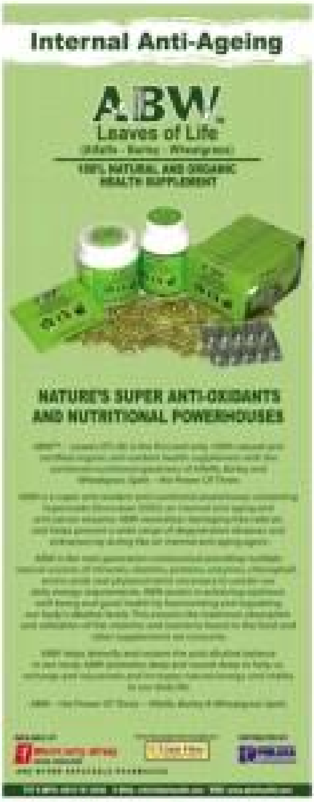
• All liquids, gels and aerosols should be in 100 milliliters (100ml) containers or smaller.

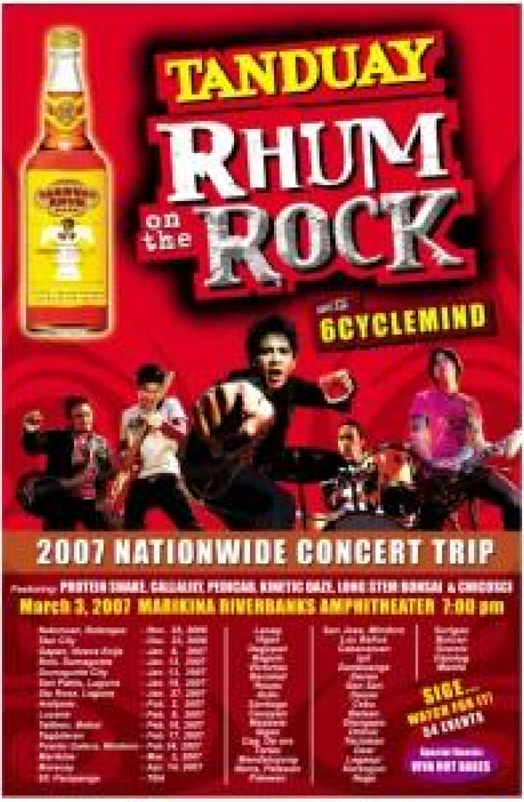
• All containers of liquids, gels and aerosols must be placed in one-liter size resealable or Zip-Lock type transparent plastic bags approximately 20cm by 20cm in dimension.

• Each passenger is allowed only one resealable plastic bag.

• Liquids, gels and aerosols for medical purposes or for a baby, such as baby food, milk and other beverages are allowed.

• Liquids, gels and aerosols purchased at airport duty-free shops are allowed but they must be accompanied by receipts. [illegible] ... plastic bags ... the bags may be opened only when the passenger is on board the aircraft. *—Gerardo [illegible]*





The Daily Gospel

Monday, February 26, 2007
1st Week of Lent

[illegible]





Without Baja, RP loses UN post

By Cynthia D. Balana

[illegible]

Smooth and proper turnover

[illegible]

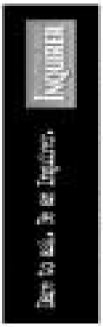
Wrong signal

[illegible]

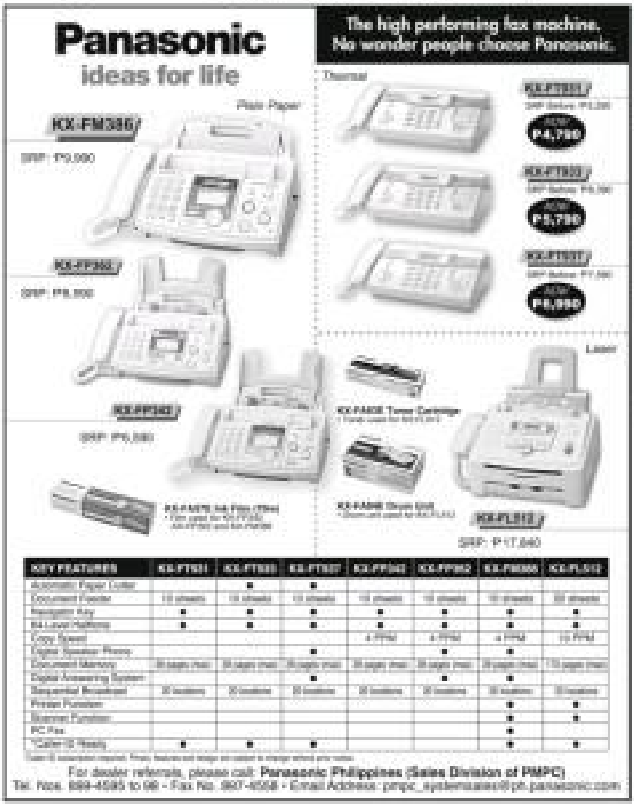
Root of all embarrassment

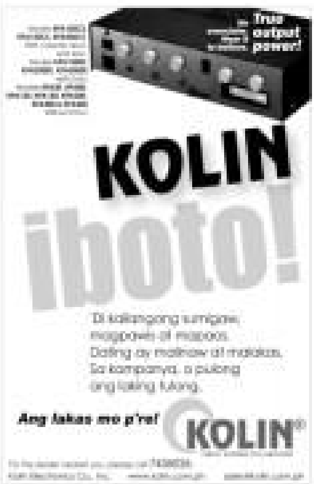
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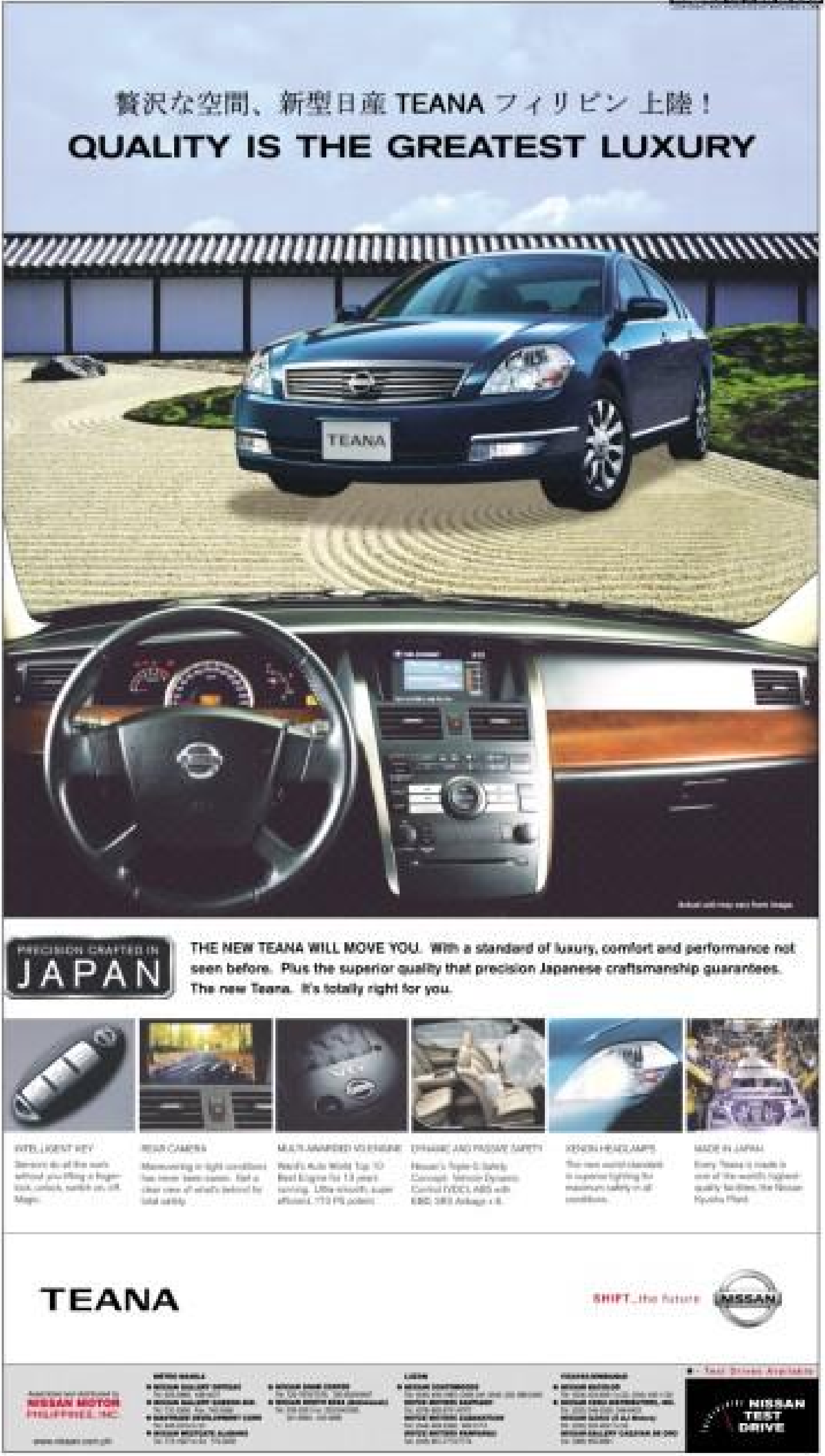












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NISSAN TEST DRIVE

Kiko said to be on way out of GO

By Norman Bordadora and Jocelyn R. Uy



THE SENATORIAL candidates of the Ang Kapatiran party were proclaimed at a rally and fund-raiser at Club Filipino. They are, from left, Adrian Sison, Dr. Martin Bautista and Zosimo Paredes.

Ang Kapatiran raises funds in a small way

By Christian V. Esguerra

Team Unity, other bets take campaign to Baguio City

On horseback

Broke festival guidelines

AFP: Pullout of Estrada guards 'honest mistake'

Congress clears sale of PTIC shares in PLDT

THE HOUSE OF REPresentatives has cleared the sale of the sequestered Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. shares in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to a Hong Kong-based company, a member of the House committee on good government said over the weekend.

In a statement, [illegible] Rep. [illegible] Remulla said the House in plenary approved the House committee on good government report that declared the government's sale of the P25 billion worth of PTIC shares in PLDT as "valid and legal."

The committee report was endorsed by 14 congressmen and promptly adopted by the House on the second day of its special session on Feb. 20.

The House committee earlier conducted an investigation into the sale of the government's minority interest in PTIC, a holding firm that owns 13.8 percent of PLDT.

Lawful

The government's [illegible] equity in PTIC is equivalent to a [illegible] percent stake in the telecommunications firm.

"All premises considered, the sale of the government's equity in PTIC is lawful and has substantially complied with prescribed procedures," the report declared.

Based on the testimonies and documents submitted to the good government committee, the report determined that "the sale of the PTIC shares at P25.2 billion is fair and reasonable, and will be beneficial and most advantageous to government."

The report also said the sale was aboveboard. "Transparency was observed throughout the bidding process. The auction was directed in conformity with existing legal procedures, and with due diligence, without any apparent abuse of discretion on the part of the designated selling agencies," the report said.

Verdict

The House also affirmed a previous Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) verdict that despite the sale of the PTIC shares, PLDT would remain a largely Filipino-owned public utility.

First Pacific Co. of Hong Kong, through its local subsidiary, acquired the PTIC shares and would fully own PTIC once the transaction is completed. First Pacific already has a controlling stake in PTIC.

According to the report, the sale of the PTIC shares to First Pacific "will not violate the constitutional restrictions on the [illegible] ownership of a public utility, as PTIC owns only 13.8 percent of PLDT's common shares."

The sale of the PTIC shares is expected to close on March 2.

First Pacific paid 10 percent of the total [illegible] million price for the shares when it signed a preliminary share purchase agreement with the government on Feb. 14.

Norman Bordadora

Shame campaign aims to knock Pacquiao out of electoral race

By Christian V. Esguerra



ILLEGAL

One year later, Ka Bel still in detention

By TJ Burgonio

Meet on key to librarians' success set





PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Seeds of abuse

EDITORIAL



The untold story of Edsa I

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(To be continued)

Laughable lies

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A time of testing

SOUNDING BOARD



Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

The return of Francis G. Estrada

REVEILLE



Ramon J. Farolan

Pro-life, pro-death list

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Antonio J. Montalvan II

A year of murder

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

THEY SAID

Simple arithmetic

Distinction not in Charter

Rice QR extension not enough

CDC officials should respect existing contracts

LETTERS

It's a question of competence

Not for Hannah to wake up

Across the NATION

Abducted ex-detainee's kin seek US help

TARLAC CITY—RELATIVES OF A FORMER MARtial law detainee, who was abducted by three gunmen here on Feb. 6, have sought the assistance of the United States government in locating him.



BIG HELP

Laguna mayor terminates 976 employees

8 areas in Ilocos under PNP watch

Church starts probe of priest's rape case



FLOWERS BY THE ROAD



Contractors asked to finish SCTEx on time

Cops seek transfer of detained farmers

Pol jingles called stupid, self-serving

BAGUIO CITY—AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATOR is on the campaign trail to stop what he calls "catchy but selfish" political jingles.

"Political jingles are potent vehicles of communication. The problem is that most of the jingles coming out are stupid, selfish and self-serving," said Albert Saldajeno Jr., a theater director and motivational speaker.

"It's all name recall. What about their political agenda and programs," said Saldajeno, who is an [illegible] at St. Joseph's College in Manila.

"It would be a great service to the people if they can learn more about you other than your name," he said.

Saldajeno recently taught members of the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines how to compose their own political jingles. But he said he was considering boycotting the May elections.

"They seem to be all the same, even their jingles," he said. "But if they come out with their jingles, they should be like the pedagogical motivational songs which are simple, engaging, educational and culture-based."

"The jingles should be sensible and be able to blend entertainment and information in a short time," he said.

One of them, which Saldajeno is using in his stock plays and lectures on electoral reform, is what he calls "Ang Tatlong Unggoy ng Eleksiyon" or the Three Monkeys of Morality.

"[illegible]," he said.

He also said that political jingles borrowed from popular songs might help in name recall but would not help much in projecting the candidate.

This is because people would rather remember the original lyrics which might be different from what the candidate would want to be known, he said.

Saldajeno, together with educator [illegible], is one of the pioneers of international learning styles of teaching which takes into account elements like music, visualization, arrangement of chairs and room temperature in helping students learn.

He has compiled a CD of his pedagogical motivational songs which teachers can use to motivate their students.

He said he believes political jingles are necessary in campaigning, especially among Filipinos. "We are a musical nation. We have songs about everything and every activity, including planting rice," he said.

"Music is embedded in our culture. Music helps in learning and we learn better if we put them into music." —Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Education revolution as new people power

Full-fledged revolution

Indicators of quality

Biggest bureaucracy



A SUPPORTER of People Power offers flowers to a rebel soldier during Edsa I.

Revolution on 2 legs

57-75 Movement

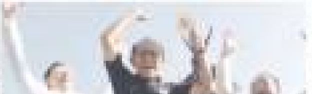
The partners

Big, small make no difference

GMA: No more Edsas; urges use of people power to unite RP

Sparse crowd

Tolerated



FORMER President Fidel Ramos reprises the jump he made at the height of the Edsa I during yesterday's commemorative rites. With him are Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo (left) and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Foreign capital

Change people's lives

Pondo ng Pinoy

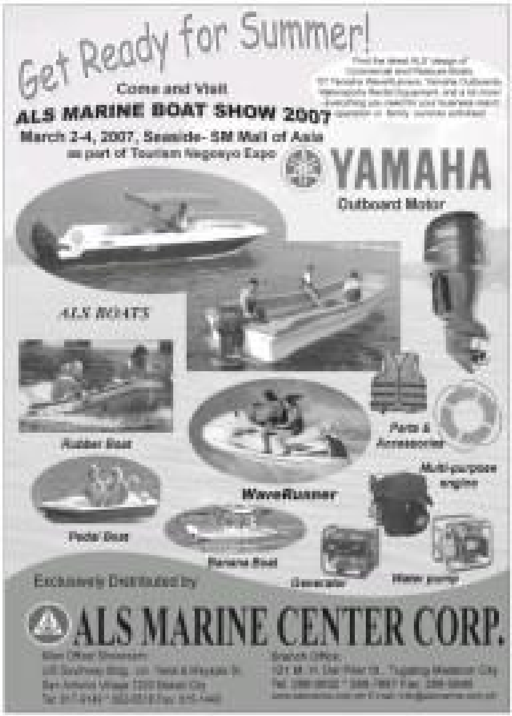
Police truck

At last, a museum for rare courage



FORMER Senate President Jovito Salonga (left) and Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco unveil the marker at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation building in Quezon City.

Genuine Opposition's return to Plaza Miranda a big letdown





Hope shows face, tells Kris sorry but ...

From page A1



TV GRAB of Kris Aquino and James Yap in an interview by Pia Guanio.

Mayor Vi gives way in Batangas gubernatorial race

From page A1



SANTOS

Palace meddling

New ruling gives small mining firms big boost

From page A1

Justice secretary's opinion

Palparan eyes seat in Congress

From page A1

Determined to go after NPA

SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW:

THE REAL SCORE ON GMA'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

OR WHY THE NATION IS WORSE OFF NOW THAN IN JANUARY 2001

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has recently been crowing over her so called "economic gains" and bragging about her superior economic performance over the past six years when compared to Estrada's in 1998-2000. The facts, however, do not bear these out and show that these boasts are mere spins.

GMA SPIN NO.1 : The Filipino people are better off now than six years ago.
THE FACT NO.1 : The Misery Index (Rate of Inflation + Rate of Unemployment) remains higher at 17.0 today after six years of GMA than at its level of **15.8** in 2000 just before GMA grabbed the presidency from Joseph Ejercito Estrada. This is bolstered by the SWS report of December 2006 that household hunger in the Philippines reached a record high of 19% of families (or **3.3 million** households) and that **52%** of families rated themselves poor.

GMA SPIN NO. 2: The GMA Administration's EVAT has benefited the economy and the people.
THE FACT NO. 2: The tax burden has become heavier under the GMA Administration, rising from **13.0% of GDP** in 2000 to **14.8%** in 2006. Today every Filipino is paying more taxes, effectively reducing the money in his pocket and consequently reducing his overall welfare. This is made worse by the Administration's wrong priorities: first priority on debt servicing, low priority on education and healthcare.

GMA SPIN NO. 3: Education and healthcare have improved under the GMA Administration.
THE FACT NO. 3: Because she made debt servicing her top priority, GMA has neglected education and healthcare. Education spending per pupil, corrected for inflation in 2000 prices, reached its highest at **P5,850** during Estrada's short-lived term in 1998-2000 and then fell to **P5,467** during GMA's first four years (2001-2004). The consolidated national and local per capita spending on health, adjusted for inflation in 2000 prices, reached its peak at **P106** during Estrada's term and then dropped to **P90** in 2001-2004.

GMA SPIN NO. 4: The economy's growth rates under the GMA Administration are impressive and much better than those under the Estrada Administration.
THE FACT NO. 4: Per capita real GDP (or GDP corrected for inflation and population growth) grew by **7.3%** in 2000 during the last year of Estrada's truncated term. This has yet to be surpassed by GMA after six years of promising and failing. The real per capital growth under GMA has been so mediocre that it failed to make any significant difference in the lives of most Filipinos. Moreover, GMA has consistently failed to meet her own GDP growth rate targets during the past six years, except for 2004. And yet she now has the gall to promise growth rates of 7, 8, 9 per cent in the next three years!

GMA SPIN NO. 5: Foreign investments are flocking to the country, indicating increased international investor confidence in a robust Philippine economy.
THE FACT NO. 5: During the past eight years, annual inflow of foreign direct investments or FDIs reached its highest value of **US$ 2.24** billion in 2000 when Estrada was president. This level of FDI inflow has not yet been equaled by the GMA Administration. FDIs seem to have avoided the country like a plague during the past six years. In 2005, for example, the Philippines was able to attract only **US$ 1.13 B** worth of FDI inflow whereas Vietnam got **US$ 2 B**, Malaysia **US$ 3.9 B**, Thailand **US$ 4.0 B**, and Indonesia **US$ 6.1 B**.

GMA SPIN NO. 6: The Philippine economy is becoming globally competitive and is about to take off.
THE FACT NO. 6: The country's ranking in global competitiveness, as reported by the World Economic Forum, has been falling under GMA's Administration, starting from a ranking of **48** in 2000 during Estrada's term and dropping to 71 in 2006. In comparison, our neighbors garnered the following rankings in 2006: Singapore **5**, Malaysia **26**, Thailand **35**, and Indonesia **50**.

GMA SPIN NO. 7: The strength of the Philippine economy under GMA's management is indicated by the stronger peso and the more active stock market.
THE FACT NO. 7: GMA is so desperate to grasp at straws in order to be able to say something good about the economy that she chooses to ignore what they must have taught her at the U.P. School of Economics, that the exchange rate and the stock market indices are not good barometers of the health of an economy.

In the first place, GMA is trying to claim credit for the appreciation of the peso or the greater activity of the stock market when she has nothing to do with either development. The peso has appreciated because (1) the US dollar has weakened and (2) remittances from OFWs have increased due to the higher quantity and quality of OFWs deployed abroad. The latter, in turn, is caused by the shortage of employment and livelihood opportunities in the country that has resulted from GMA's failure to make the economy grow fast enough to absorb new job entrants and the existing unemployed.

In the second place, the greater activity of the stock market is caused by the increased inflow of "hot money" or portfolio investments to stock markets all over the world, which is due to a greater supply of petrodollars and lower interest rates and which has nothing to do with GMA's economic policies.

CONCLUSION

GMA's so called "economic gains" are a mirage. She has been trying to divert attention away from her dismal economic performance by bragging about, and grabbing credit for, two insignificant economic indicators - the stronger peso and the more active stock market - while covering up her failure to address the more important economic variables such as employment, prices, productivity, global competitiveness, quality education, affordable healthcare, and modern infrastructure.

From 2001 up to now, GMA has failed to equal the economic performance of President Estrada and failed to make the economy grow fast enough to make any significant improvement in the lives of most Filipinos, especially the poor. UNDOUBTEDLY, OUR NATION AND OUR PEOPLE WERE BETTER OFF DURING ESTRADA'S SHORTENED TERM THAN THEY ARE TODAY AFTER SIX YEARS OF GMA'S DISMAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.

This only goes to show that, true to form, GMA continues to LIE about our country's economic indicators, CHEAT the people by trying to hoodwink them about the true state of the economy, and even tries to STEAL credit from developments that she had nothing to do with.

Sources: **BSP** (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)
DBM (Department of Budget and Management)
NSCB (National Statistical Coordination Board)

Friends of the GENUINE OPPOSITION



YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD THE POWER
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METROBANK
FEMME
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Femme Visa
Use your power. Call 8-700-700
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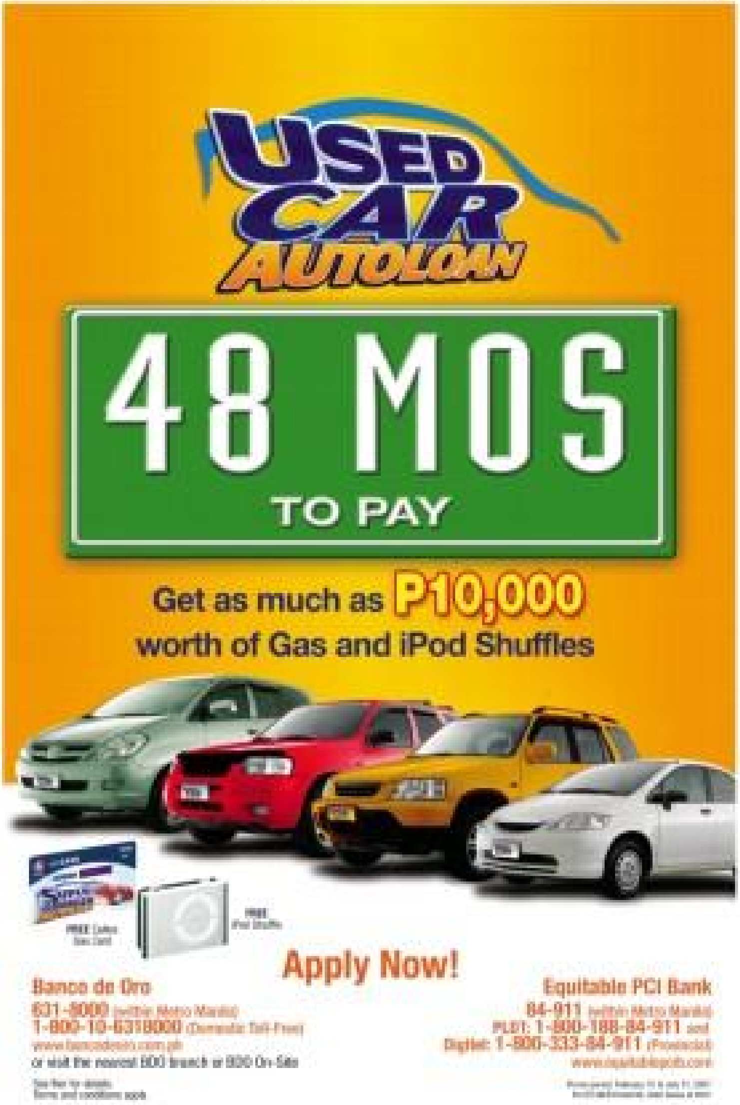
Aplus METRO

Metro streets more deadly for pedestrians

MMDA: 190 pedestrians killed in accidents in 2006



FIESTA FEVER



Citizen's call

DID YOU KNOW

Hope floats in Parañaque City's slums

By Julie M. Aurelio

Poor people live here, too

Honor students



URCHINS Street Kids, a nonprofit organization which was formed in 2001, is sponsoring the education of 135 poor children in two subdivisions in the city.



"WE WANT to offer them hope by giving them the right opportunities," says Urchins founder French philanthropist Aurore Prudent-Rolland.

Cops on motorcycles to go after robbers

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Boy drowns in river

By Allison W. Lopez

QC street has new name

By Margaux C. Ortiz

Highest terror threat since 9/11 raised in Britain



PROTESTERS continue to mass in Trafalgar Square after the "No Trident, Troops Out of Iraq" demonstration in London Feb. 24.

Truck bomb attack outside mosque in Iraq kills 40 people

WorldBriefs

Venezuela spending on arms soars to world's top ranks

Deaths in Palestinians' feud raises fears of new violence

Man charged with theft of up to 300 cars

Blair ignored Chirac's warning of Iraq 'disaster'

Prodi keeps job as PM



The WORLD

Iran says it is ready for anything the US does in nuke row

TEHRAN—IRAN IS READY FOR ANYTHING THE UNITED STATES does to stop its nuclear program, Tehran's foreign minister said on Saturday after the United States maintained it was keeping "all options on the table."





WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Que nails Razon title /A24

SPORTS

■ Mavs stretch home win run /A32



Chot: We can beat the Chinese

Defeating Asian power a matter of 'how,' not 'if'



CHINA'S Yao Ming (left) disputes possession with the RP team's ... during the 2002 Asian Games in Busan.

OF ALL THE QUESTIONS ASKED OF CHOT Reyes when he named the members of the Philippine Team on Saturday, one reverberated inside the venue.

CHOT /A26







Out with saints in boxing

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

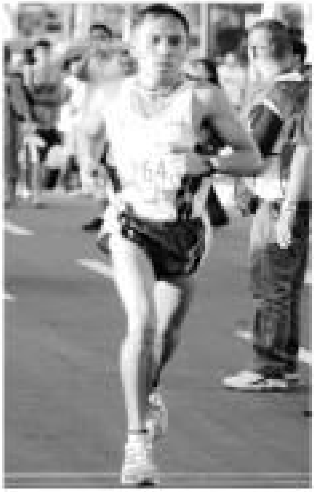


[illegible]

Buenavista outthinks, outkicks the best of 'em

By Jasmine W. Payo

[illegible]



EDUARDO Buenavista heads for the finish line unchallenged.

Barcarse, Dysangco show class in Tarlac elims



DYSANGCO

[illegible]

Chot: We can beat China



REYES: The big question is how?

[illegible]

Team composition defended

[illegible]

Que nails Razon title, wins P1.3M

Wire-to-wire victory for Ger Francis



Jaca-Larios tiff in Vegas May 5 card



SPORTSWATCH

SPORTS

Mavs stretch home win run



THE MAVERICKS' Devin Harris (above), driving to the basket, charges into Denver big man Nene. AP

Raptors 93, Bobcats 76

Stacy bags Fields golf title, J-Ro fumbles

Lim keeps poise in debut as Lions' coach

By Jasmine W. Payo



Ogilvy, Stenson gain match play final

ONE-MAKE RACE



Languido rules Adidas footrace

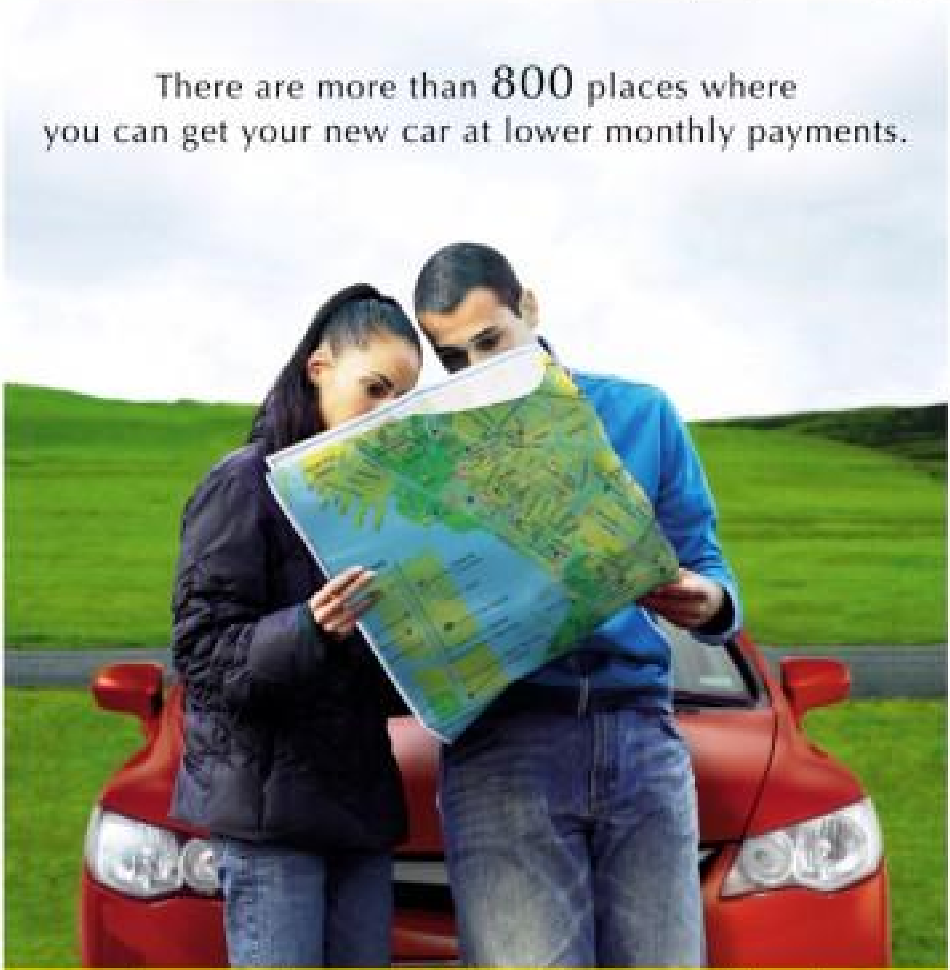
BUSINESS

Sumitomo eyes $380-M nickel facility in RP



Joint venture project with Zamora group seen

JAPAN'S SUMITOMO METAL MINING CO. LTD. IS PLANNING to build a $380-million nickel processing facility in Surigao, officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said.



WTO exec backs measure to lower drug prices

Move to answer social needs

Sumitomo eyes $380-M ...

Feeling the good news

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito



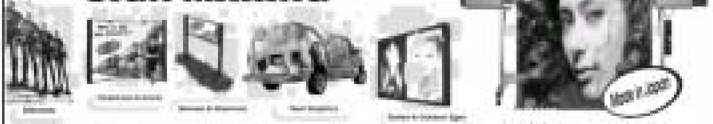
Feel no feel

Price stability

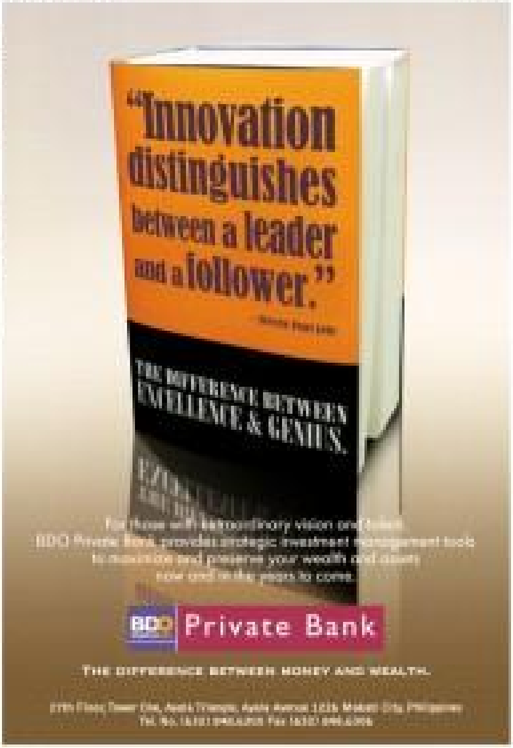
Stronger peso

Heroes and martyrs

RP role in trade talks lauded

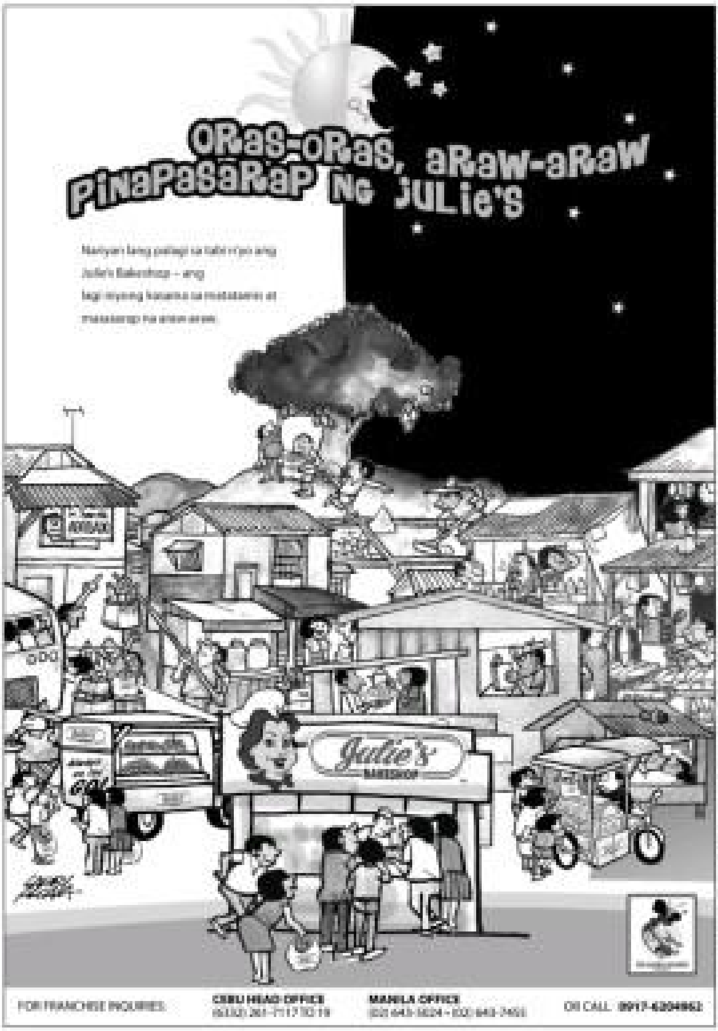


RP role in trade talks lauded





Public sector deficit down 55% to ₱43.4B in '06



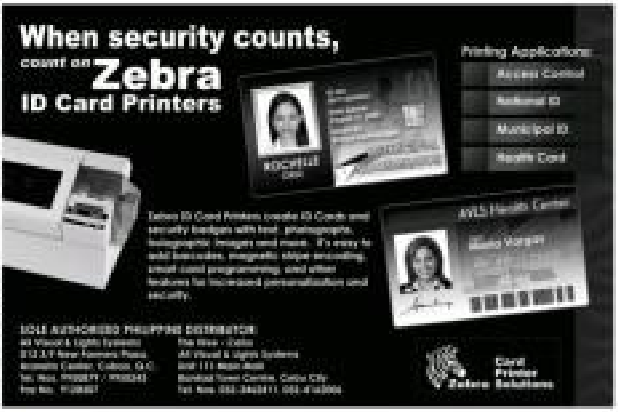
Excise tax collections up 5.8% in 2006



Local exporters seeking greater involvement in trade negotiations







PPCRV strategy to combat cheating

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



First Cagayan license extended by 25 years



Lopez unit issues ₱3B in bonds

Del Monte '06 profit up 13%

Funds may be used in consolidating FPHC interests in toll roads business

SMIC starts building second BPO facility

Market seen testing new highs

Bangko Sentral readying new monetary tools

Coping with strong inflows of dollars

By Doris C. Dumlao

Group worried over delay of MRT expansion

RP-Australia trade up 10.7% to ₱66.5B in '06

Telecommunications equipment top Philippine export



Philippines has viable market for mobile TV service, study says

Teves wants ICC reactivated

City offers property to developers

Cordillera, Mindanao farmers move toward forging alliance

DBP set to lend ₱37.5B

InfoTech



God's mobile phone

See the only cell phone in the Guinness Book of World Records

IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE, WE featured the Vertu phone, a cellphone we figured for the most expensive available. [illegible]

Adel Cadiz



NEW LOOK, new features are now available [illegible]

BlackBerry Pearl launched in RP

[illegible]


PHILAM PLANS
AGENCY MANAGERS
UNIT MANAGERS
PRE NEED LEGENDS
AGENCY MANAGERS
SAGB LEGENDS
A&H Legends
AIG
A Member of American International Group, Inc.


goes FULL SPEED AHEAD
DISTRICT MANAGERS
SALES COUNSELORS
UNIT MANAGERS
DISTRICT MANAGERS
SALES COUNSELORS
LEGENDARY PRODUCER
PHILAM PLANS

PHILAM PLANS CITED NO.1 AGAIN

Philam Plans Inc., the leader in providing pension, education and life plans in the country, continues to be the most trusted in its industry today, based on current standings from the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

In its latest Sales Report, the SEC cited Philam Plans as the overall leader in the entire industry for the period of January to November 2006, with Total Sales of over 3.21 Billion Pesos and an industry market share of over 18%. The same report also showed that Philam Plans led the whole industry the entire month of November 2006, generating over 477 Million Pesos in Total Sales and over 28% total industry market share. Also on the same month, Philam Plans reached the number one spot in the Pension Plans Category with Total Sales of over 2.49% Billion Pesos and a market share of 22%.

"We continue to be very pleased with our overall results and with how our Company's unified efforts have brought these about, despite a very challenging and difficult year for the entire industry in 2006," said Philam Plans President and CEO Jack I. Howell. "We are confident that this trend is a sign of better things to come as we constantly find new ways to serve the financial needs of the Filipino family."

The previous SEC Report also reflected favorable data on Philam Plans' overall industry standing for the period of January to October 2006, where the Company led all other pre-need players with Total Sales of over 2.74 Billion Pesos and a market share of over 17%. Since the middle of 2006, Philam Plans has directed its strategic steps to boost the company's financial capabilities to continue to be the leader in its business for all categories.

Philam Plans Inc. holds a growing trust fund of 27.7 Billion Pesos, the majority of which are secured in cash or near-cash equivalent such as government securities.Its capitalization stands at 700 Million Pesos in paid-up capital, which is seven times larger than the minimum SEC requirement. The company currently has over 500,000 plans in force.

Philam Plans is a wholly subsidiary of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife), the country's largest and most diversified insurance company and a member company of the American International Group,Inc. (AIG), the leading international insurance and financial services organization with operations in more than 130 countries and jurisdictions.

Traders see volatile Asian market ahead

Fed execs still wary of inflation

Policy makers closely watching price pressures

Yen at center of eurozone ministers meet

Farm exports seen surging to $4.5B



Ethanol firms urged to use other feedstock

BUSINESS Monday

Developing muscles to keep competition at bay

The better your people, the faster the business will grow





Soap-making seminar set at UP on March 10

Leading the MAP

MAPping the Future

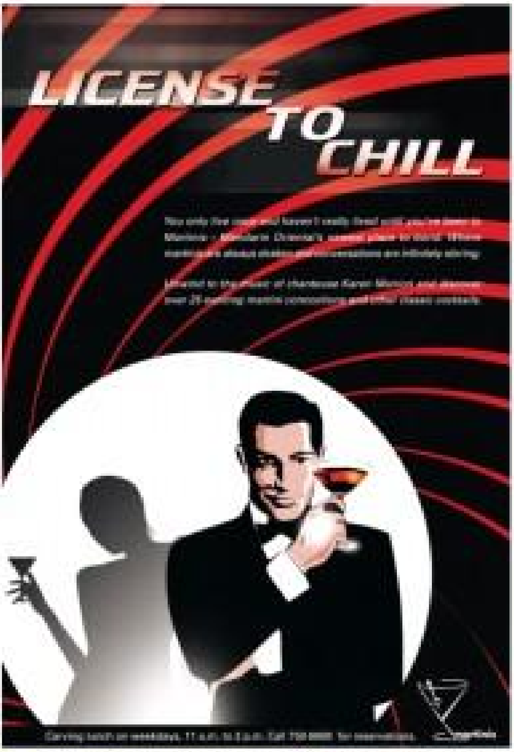
Evelyn R. Singson

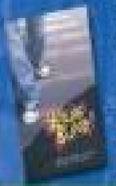
Real estate key to raising tourism

Developing muscles . . .

Linea Italia

Serving Pinoys' viewing . . .





BUSINESS Monday

Corporate donations

'No corporation, domestic or foreign, shall give donations in aid of any political party or candidate...'

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

Financial support

Restriction



RAMON and Carol Chuaping

Serving Pinoys' viewing needs

IN THIS ISSUE
CB Garrucho returns on stage /C2

LIFESTYLE

Editor Cheche Lazaro-Moreno
Associate Editor Lito B. Zulueta



MIXED Nanette as Mercedes Tiongson, Jenny Jamora as Basilia Tantoco, Melbenie Barcenilla as Alberta Uitangcoy (plus the inimitable Basilia)

Nicanor Tiongson's 'Basilia ng Malolos' reinvents and updates the art form

Dulaang UP presents an anti-'sarswela'

By Walter Ang
Contributor

AFTER HAVING DIRECTED several productions using foreign material without any "linear" plots, Dulaang UP artistic director Jose Estrella wanted to do something "with a storyline, something Filipino."

She then came across "Basilia of Malolos," a sarswela written by Nicanor Tiongson, and was instantly intrigued when the playwright informed her that it was actually an "anti-sarswela."

"It still includes the usual elements of the form like a bida (protagonist), contrabida (antagonist), the music, and the 'morally correct' ending, but we [illegible] and [illegible], subverted even, these very elements to suit our storytelling needs," says Tiongson.

"Basilia of Malolos" deals with a group of women José Rizal had written to in 1889 to congratulate them for their petition to have a night school opened.

"That was the only thing people knew about them. That they made an [illegible] request from Governor-General Valeriano Weyler to have Spanish language classes."

There was certainly more than met the eye in their story. After writing the book "Women of Malolos," published in 2004, on the history and biographies of these women, Tiongson had gained intimate knowledge of the reach and implications of their little school.

"It wasn't just a school," he explains. "This group of 'feisty and intrepid' women were deeply involved in the revolution efforts of the time. They made waves big enough to warrant notice from notables like Rizal and Marcelo del Pilar."

To bring their stories to a broader audience via an art form, "the sarswela seemed the logical choice," says Tiongson. "Also, her time period corresponds to the beginning of this form."

Changing the form

Tiongson already has one sarswela, "Filipinas Circa 1907," under his belt. It was performed in the '80s and [illegible] Tanghalang Pilipino.

"This time, I explore the life of Basilia Tantoco (essayed by Jenny Jamora) and her role as a leader of the women of Malolos. In the context of the whole reform movement, the things she did were a major salvo," he says.

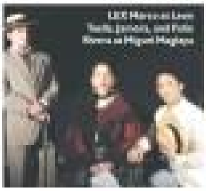
"When I heard the term 'anti-sarswela,' I had to ask what it meant," says Estrella.

However, the opportunity to reinvent and update the sarswela is just the kind of thing this innovative director likes to sink her teeth into.

"The material is a challenge to direct. At the basic level, there's an idea that sarswelas follow the love angle of the protagonist and they live happily ever after. In Basilia, the surprise comes at the end when all of that is defied and we all see what she does after that."

Tiongson hopes that audiences will ultimately be led to question long-held perceptions and notions of society and culture.

DULAANG UP /C2



LEE Marco as Leon Tantoco, [illegible], and Felix Rivera as Miguel Magbaya



NATIONAL Artist Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero's "The Woman with a White Veil" has been adapted to contemporary times.



CURTAIN call

This premier actress lights up Peta's production of 'Belong Puti' by Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero and Nonon Padilla



CAST includes Lui Velasco, Marie O'Hara, CB Garrucho, Sherry Lara, Joan Bromlelo

CB Garrucho: Back on stage

By Nerri Rae Ramona Cruz
Contributor



GARRUCHO

Drastic editing

Heartwarming

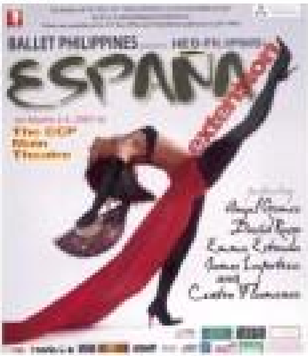


Call for new Tanghalang Pilipino actors-scholars



TANGHALANG Pilipino.com

Dulaang UP presents an anti-'sarswela'



Ballet Philippines celebrates Pinoy's Spanish roots

Russian pianist's Manila debut

Mommy moments with Dawn

LifeStyle

'Word of Mouth' closes 'Chromatext' exhibit at CCP



A SESSION of performed poetry billed as "Word of Mouth" serves as the closing event for the landmark "Chromatext Reloaded" exhibit that has been on display for over a month at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Main Gallery.

Mounted by the Philippine Literary Arts Council (PLAC), the exhibit that integrates the written word with visual art comes to a fitting close tomorrow, Feb. 27, with readings and performances by PLAC and friends starting 6:30 p.m.

Headlining the program is a sterling assembly of seasoned literary performance artists, poets and musicians led by PLAC members [illegible], Gémino H.H. Abad, [illegible] and Marne Kilates.

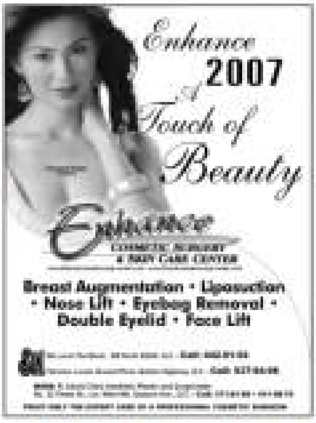
They will be joined by fellow poets Marjorie Evasco, Joel Toledo, Carlomar Arcangel Daoana and Angelo Suarez, as well as a dynamic mix of multimedia artists, spoken word groups and young musicians.

The performers include the versatile dramatist Frank Rivera, painters [illegible], Alan Rivera and Danny Sillada, [illegible], Ringo Bunoan, [illegible], Ria Muñoz, underground hip-hop group [illegible], [illegible] and The Pupils.

TURN TO A4



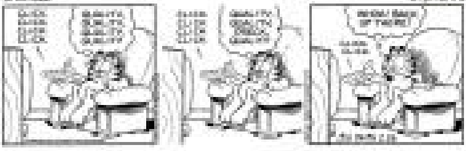




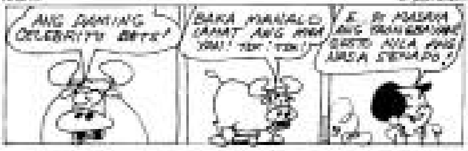




GARFIELD By Jim Davis



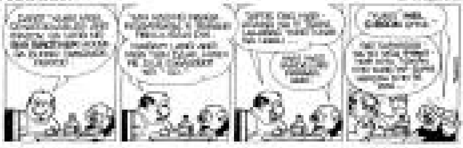
A. LIPIN By Jess Abrera



BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott and Rick Kirkman



PUGAD BABOY By Pol Medina Jr.



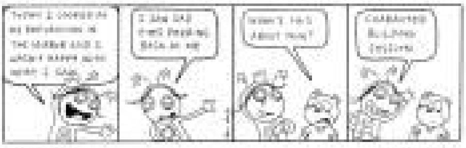
MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



LOVESHOTS By Elizabeth Chionglo



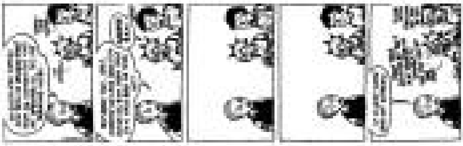
ATOMO AND WEBBY By Lyra Garcellano



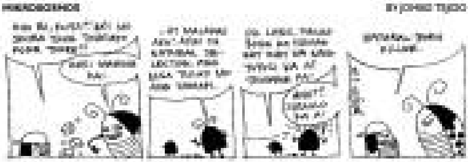
DIVINE COMEDY By Steven Pabalinas



KIKO MACHINE By Manix Abrera



HINDIRONDISMOS By Jomike Tejido



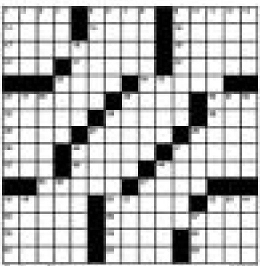
TULDOK By Papu and Tatum Halambling



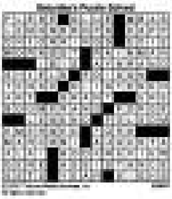
BEN By Daniel Shelton



DAILY CROSSWORD



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

3	8	2					9	1
1			3	5				2
				2				4
			2		3		8	
	6	7		9		2	1	
	4		8		7			
7				4				
4				8	6			9
9	2					6	4	5

Difficulty Level ★

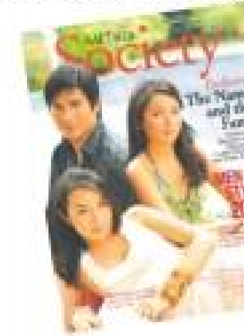
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

High-society mag features Floirendo heiresses, Piolo Pascual



FOR THE COVER OF ITS first issue in 2007, Metro Society, ABS-CBN Publishing's chronicler of the lives of the privileged set, brings together the most successful actor in Philippine entertainment, Piolo Pascual, and the elusive young society mavens Monica and Gabrielle Floirendo, the daughters of former Miss Universe Margie Moran and Davao Rep. Tony Boy Floirendo.

The accompanying stories inside reveal the introspective side of Pascual, and the private and exciting lives the Floirendo girls live in London, Manila and Davao.

Also in this issue is the annual Men's Style Special, including the much-awaited list of society's best dressed men for 2007. Italian designer to the stars, Domenico Vacca, is featured in an especially [illegible] story.

Other features: a 13-page, generously illustrated [illegible] piece on Antonio Garcia Llamas, painter and portrait artist to the rich and powerful in postwar Manila; [illegible].

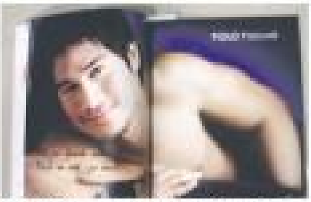
Raul Manzano is editor in chief. Metro Society is available nationwide.

'Word of Mouth' . . .



From page D1

[illegible]



STARSTUDIO magazine photos show actor Piolo Pascual as the "paper" for [illegible] poetry by Filipino-American writer [illegible], a participating writer in the "[illegible]" event.

Fantasy thriller

STEVE BERRY, WRITER OF several best-selling high-concept thrillers such as "The Templar Legacy" (2006) and "The Third Secret" (2005), is back with another [illegible]



[illegible]

UP runs right

By Nicole F Bernardo





'Heart to Art' raffle



LIFESTYLE



Shooting nature, saving nature

Photographers and artists commit to film the reforestation of La Mesa Dam to memorialize nature as well as convince generations to defend it

By Thelma Sioson San Juan

IN A RARE EXHIBIT OPENING on Friday at Rockwell, 14 of the country's top photographers and artists will display their photographs that will be known not only for their artistic worth but, more so, as poignant and precious reminders to present and future generations about a key natural heritage in Metro Manila. The photographs were taken one drizzly day last year to capture a reforested La Mesa Dam—a life-giving source for 12 million Filipinos.

Called "KtHope," the exhibit on March 2-4 is held by Bantay Kalikasan of the ABS-CBN Foundation chaired by Gina Lopez, which for the past decade has been working to reforest La Mesa in Quezon City. The ambitious project aimed to reforest 1,500 hectares. This is almost completed—only a little over 100 ha is left to be reforested.

As everyone knows, the water shortage crisis is a disaster waiting to happen. And all means should be exerted to save our forests and watersheds.

The mammoth project, in fact, has gone beyond that reforestation. An ecopark has been developed, perhaps one of the biggest in the region, which is becoming a nature destination for urban folk. It has streams and pools, nature trails, among other things.

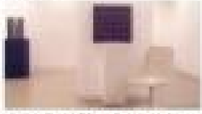
"Now that the La Mesa Dam reforestation is nearly complete," said Lopez, "the tall task at hand is to secure it, maintain it."

The exhibit aims to raise funds for the maintenance of the reforested area. Given the far-reaching good that fruits of [illegible] will be felt by generations to come, it wasn't hard to convince the leading photographers and artists—from award-winning pho-

[illegible] Page E2



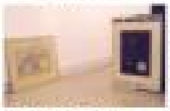
CHARLIE Abcede





Artists rehearse an uprising



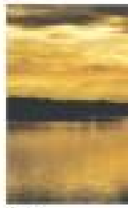


VISUAL ARTS





Shooti



Double Dutch show opens March 1



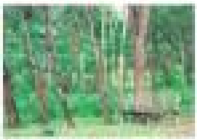
The art of memoirs



ng nature, saving nature



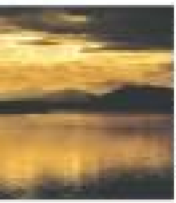








JOJO Guingona





LANDSCAPES and wildlife photos by Alan Van Hagen



ETCHING by Mao Van Hagen



Show remembers Romeo Forbes, youngest 'Guyito' artist



"MARTIAL Law"

IN COMMEMORATION OF Romeo Forbes' first death anniversary, the Cerezo art group presents "Remembering Romeo," featuring giclee prints of Forbes' original works from the highly lauded "Elias and his Dear" collection.

The exhibit is running until March 1 at LJ-d Gallery in Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

On sale are copies of Katrina Tuvera's acclaimed novel "The Jupiter Effect," which has on its cover Forbes' "Martial Law." Also on sale are special-edition Romeo Forbes shirts.

Only 25, Forbes died last year of cancer of the blood. He was the youngest artist to paint the Inquirer's Guyito mascot for the paper's 20th anniversary. He was also a best-selling artist whose works continue to be avidly collected by art lovers.

Call 901-3152.



FORBES at LJ-d Gallery



"PICNIC"



"JOURNEY"





"BIRTH"

Juan Sajid's maternal sculptures

JUAN SAJID IMAO'S LATEST SCULPTURES are on view simultaneously at Choice Expression Gallery on Jupiter Street, Makati, and LJ-d Gallery in Serendra, Bonifacio Global City.

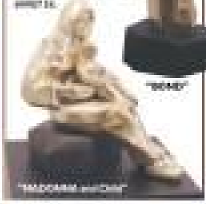
After his sold-out "Father and Child" series in November, Sajid this time explores the journey of motherhood.

Unusual pieces such as "Bond," "Birth" and "Second" depict the tender experience of a mother, from pregnancy to delivery and child-rearing. The artist said he takes inspiration from his wife who is pregnant with their second child.

Call 9013152 and 8890716.



"BOND"



"MADONNA and Child"

Artists

From page E1

22.6 x 2.6 and mostly wall-bound, but the images are mind-boggling in variety and impact. The picture of society presented is quite colorful, and the state of the nation that emerges is dark, indeed.

The imagery ranges from the satirical (a snap-shot portrait of former President Joseph Estrada) to the jaw-dropping (President Macapagal-Arroyo, fully gowned, surrounded by piles of skulls in what is apparently a killing field of political victims, and standing in two skulls she holds up, like Hamlet soliloquizing to poor Yorick).

Says Flores: "Art is a potent medium in raising the urgent call to uphold human rights and to put a stop to political killings."

Cultural invasion

They doesn't the series of touring exhibits, art talks and performances called "Pinggalo-ba." With Mideo Cruz as lead curator, the first was held in November in the Beato Angelico Gallery of University of Santo Tomas, the second last month in the Aurelio Gallery of St. Scholastica's College, and the third through February in the Faculty Center Gallery of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

For the National Arts Month, the artists are taking over the fourth-floor spaces of the Cultural Center of the Philippines to hold "Ni Pinoy Pinoy Mata?" on Feb. 13-April 1, with Flores and Noel Soler Cuizon as lead curators. The exhibition comprises selections from the CCP art collection juxtaposed with current works, photos and artifacts.

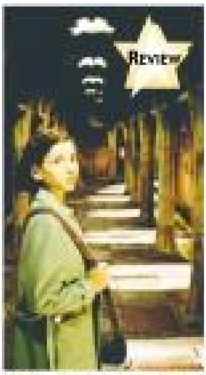
Declares the poster: "Tutok takes on CCP as 'high' site for artistic exhibition. [The exhibit] will be a critical and historical overview of a national cultural institution and aims to illustrate the CCP's peculiar role as a cultural instrument of the State and as a venue for artistic excellence."

In their, one can clearly see artists are rising and converging from north to south, from the cradle of EDSA art right into the center of high art, to stage their uprising.

Entertainment



'Pan's Labyrinth' & all its pleasures





WE'VE KNOWN GUILLERmo del Toro as an artist of that oddball film blending science fiction and the occult, since he gave us "Cronos" in the early 1990s. Although years later this Mexican stylist went Hollywood with "Mimic," "Blade II" and "Hellboy," we still associated him with [illegible] cinema.

Guillermo del Toro's latest has 6 strong Oscar nods

Steely security blanket draped over Hollywood

Choosing the Oscars winners









Steely security blanket draped ...

Repeat surprises

Tax inspectors

Did You Know...

Gore film favored

15 nominees

Even the biggest stars should leave to experts the matter of formal outfits

CHEER FACTOR

No guarantee







MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

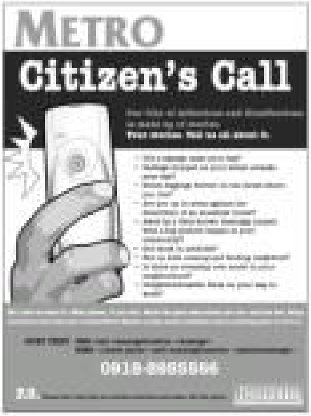
NOW SHOWING

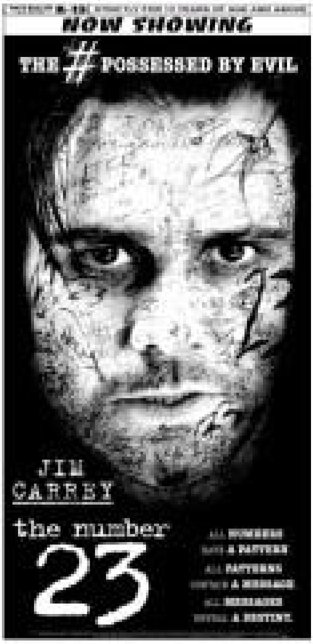
MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

'Pan's Labyrinth' . . .


GUILLERMO DEL TORO

Metaphors and ideas





Anything can happen

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre



Jude Law and Cameron Diaz in "The Holiday"

[illegible]

On-target portrayals

[illegible]

Sluggish turn

[illegible]

Tragic plus

[illegible]

'Notes on A Scandal'

[illegible]

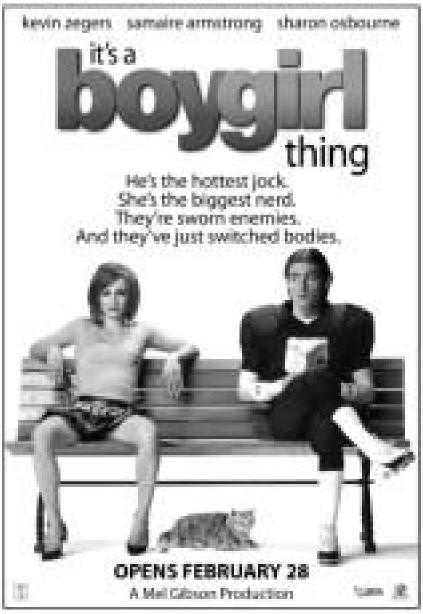
On ETC channel

[illegible]



SOURCE: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences







'Man of the Year' Ben Stiller in pink shoes

RUSHES

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS—ACTOR Ben Stiller put on pink shoes, a blond wig and other headband to strut against an Owen Wilson impersonator before claiming Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Man of the Year award.

"Just like at home, honey," Stiller said to the actress with, Christine Taylor, as he put on the female attire during the Friday event organized by the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe.

Stiller, 41, played along with the good-natured traditional Hasty Pudding roast, which lampooned his career. He won the award decades after dropping out of film school at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The awards are given to performers who have made a "lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment."

"This is the dream I've ever been in the seed," Stiller said.

"Ben Stiller has pioneered new forms of comedy," Joshua Lesser, press and publicity manager for the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "When we had the opportunity to invite him, we jumped at it."

Scarlett Johansson received the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year award last week. Last year's honorees were Halle Berry and Richard Gere.

In another interview that same day, Stiller said he'd be excited to star alongside Ron Cruise in an updated movie version of "The Hardy Boys" book series. The proposed "Hardy Men" film, not expected to go into production until next year at the earliest, would feature brothers Frank and Joe Hardy.



BEN Stiller with Hasty Pudding cast members. REUTERS

...now adults but estranged, teaming up to solve a mystery, according to entertainment press reports. *Reports from AP, Reuters*

More uncertainty

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—A Florida judge added more uncertainty to the paternity battle over former Playboy centerfold Anna Nicole Smith's baby on Friday when he said he wasn't sure he had jurisdiction over the case. Broward County Family Court Judge Lawrence Korda said the Bahamas, where the former Playmate's 5-month-old daughter, Dannielynn, was born, was probably the proper venue for deciding who fathered the child and who should have custody. *Reuters*

Oops ...

LOS ANGELES—Britney Spears' is again out again rehab saga found her back in a rehab facility on Thursday, fueling an emergency court hearing in which estranged husband Kevin Federline planned to discuss custody of their two children. Celebrity web sites reported that the pop singer returned late on Wednesday to the Promises rehabilitation center, which she had fled earlier in the day after less than 24 hours of treatment. *Reuters*

A gentler tone

LOS ANGELES—After two years of even-tension ejected by anti-establishment provocateurs, the Oscars this year turn to a kinder, gentler comic and TV talk show host with a flair for poking fun around her at ease. Ellen DeGeneres, who made broadcast history 10 years ago as the first openly gay lead character on US prime-time television, is headed for one of Hollywood's most prestigious assignments as only the second woman to be sole host of the Academy Awards in the Oscars' 79 years.

The job is one of the most prestigious and demanding assignments in Hollywood. The hostess is bound to be judged against a wide range of previous performances, some exemplary, others disastrous. *Reuters*

'Producers' closes

NEW YORK—"The Producers," Mel Brooks' record-setting musical about two men trying to create a Broadway flop, will close in New York on April 22 after more than 2,500 performances, the show's public relations firm said on Friday. The musical comedy, created from Brooks' 1968 movie, won a record-breaking 12 Tony awards after it opened on Broadway in 2001 with Nathan Lane starring as scheming theatrical producer Max Bialystock and Matthew Broderick as his willy accountant Leo Bloom. The musical led to worldwide stage productions and a follow-up major feature film in 2005. *Reuters*



ELLEN DeGeneres dances with Oscar statue in this undated publicity photo. REUTERS



PEOPLE dressed as movie characters on Hollywood Blvd. this week. AFP

